

May 24, 2002

Honorable William F. Caton, Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Portals II Building  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers  
CC Docket 96-98, Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996  
CC Docket No. 98-147, Deployment of Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications Capability

Dear Mr. Caton:

The Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) submits this letter in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC-01-361) issued December 20, 2001.

Generally, the MPSC endorses the Comments filed by NARUC on April 5, 2002. More specifically, the MPSC endorses the following NARUC positions:

(1) That the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) convene a Section 410(b) Federal-State Joint Conference to guide the FCC in its triennial UNE review;

(2) That the State's authority to add new UNE obligations beyond those imposed by the national list be confirmed;

(3) That the FCC should defer to State determination of whether unbundling requirements should conform to existing or new federal minimums;

and,

(4) That the FCC should assure that UNE availability does not favor one method of entering into the market over another.

The MPSC understands the demographics of Mississippi better than any other regulatory entity, and therefore, is better suited to know the needs of its telecommunications consumers.

Additionally, the MPSC is in a better position to balance the interests of the ILECs and the CLECs that it regulates.

The MPSC does not take its responsibility lightly; therefore, in the exercise of its jurisdiction and duty, the MPSC is initiating a proceeding to determine UNE availability.

Respectfully submitted,

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

---

Michael Callahan, Chairman

---

Bo Robinson, Vice Chairman

---

Nielsen Cochran, Commissioner

GMF/jg